Imposing QRs on Cheap Imports

115. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to impose Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) to bar import of cheap products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the import of cheap products are directly affecting the domestic industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether amendments to the Foreign Trade Development and Regulation Act would be made to check the inflow of items which can hit domestic firms; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (f) As a Member of WTO, it is not open to any country to impose Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) on goods imported from other countries. Any domestic concern arising out of imports are addressed by appropriate action under provisions of the Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, 1994, the Agreement on Safeguards and the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures of the WTO.

Government is monitoring import of certain sensitive items on monthly basis. As per the import data available with the Government for the period April-December, 2007, import of these items have increased by 11.1% compared to the corresponding period of last year, indicating no unusual surge in imports.

A proposal is there to amend Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 to incorporate an enabling provision to impose Quantitative Restrictions on imports as a safeguard measure.

Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor

116. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor will take its shape with the project work likely to begin in January, 2008;

(b) if so, what will be the total cost of expenditure involved in this corridor projects;

(c) what is the period by when the projects is likely to be completed;

(d) whether any detailed report in this regard has been prepared;

(e) whether any foreign country will be involved in this project; and

(f) what are the States being covered under this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) Project was approved 'in principle' by